



THE ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY  
ULSTER GROUP



Newsletter No. 9 August 2010

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*Pulsatilla ambigua* ssp *ambigua* (Harold McBride)



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**Editorial**

We are living in challenging times - actually I was thinking of the weather for gardeners rather than the economic climate. One of the coldest and longest winters has been followed by a hot, dry spring. I had the impression that this suited many of our alpine, most flowering better than ever before, but as the dry spell continued some began to wilt. However the rain has arrived and I just hope that we do not have a repeat of last year's record wet August. Looking at this Spring's Show benches, AGS members' skills

obviously rose to the occasion with better displays than ever and giving inspiration for everyone to do even better in 2011.

Thinking of last August, we were very lucky to have one of the few dry Saturdays for our 'picnic' at June's - this turned into more of a feast - morning coffee, lunch and our President Bob's birthday cake + champagne, all set in luxurious surroundings, complete with Zdenek's master crevice gardens. Margaret Kennedy is very kindly hosting it this year and hopefully the day will be kind to us as it is a social occasion with an opportunity for both old and new members to get to know each other better.



We have now had our first year in our new surroundings of St. Bride's Hall. Advantages include ease of access and more space and hopefully we will sort out teething problems with lighting and sound as we become more familiar with the hall. While the afternoon tea has become something of a highlight we must be careful not to let it become a chore for the ladies - but it is a great opportunity to chat and exchange ideas over a cup of tea.

It's lovely to see quite a few new faces over the past year and also playing an active part. I would encourage everyone to join for where else in these economic times could you get so much pleasure that lasts a lifetime for so little cost as in the Alpine Garden Society!

The committee and Heather gave us an excellent programme last year and this year's looks equally good while Margaret and Kay organised the various garden tours - more detailed accounts further on. You can also see more pictures of all our activities on the website [www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk](http://www.alpinegarden-ulster.org.uk) as well as the 'plant of the month'. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the web especially to 'plant of the month' as more are urgently needed - no computer skills necessary!

So as autumn approaches we can look forward to bright Saturday afternoons meeting up with friends at the AGS and do encourage all contacts to come along and join us. Meantime I hope you enjoy the

Newsletter and many thanks to our contributors for without them there would be no Newsletter.

### **Congratulations.**

I am delighted to record that two of our members have been honoured by the Scottish Rock Garden Club - Harold McBride becomes an Honorary Vice- President and Pat Crossley an Honorary Member. These awards are not lightly given but are a recognition of many years of hard work, contributions and outstanding excellence in the Alpine world and both deserve our hearty congratulations.



### **Obituaries**

Sadly I record the deaths of four of our members.

When I think of Frank Brown my mind goes back to an earlier picnic and I remember a quiet, kind and generous man who not only tolerated around 100 AGS members but also made them very welcome to his immaculate home and garden in Ballymoney on one of the wettest days of the year. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and especially to Dorothy who has lost a loving and dear husband.

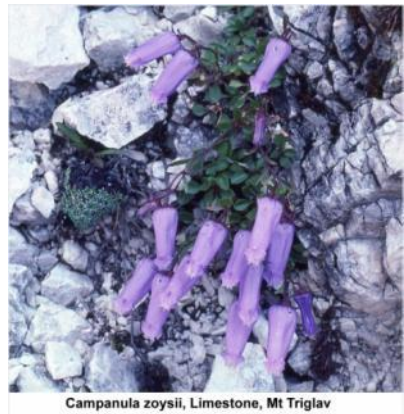
When I joined the AGS Carol McCutcheon was one of the most active members, teaching us all how to present plants for the show. Not only was she an outstanding grower of alpinists winning many awards but she was also very artistic, her calligraphy enhancing many show cards until recently. She had a lovely warm bubbly personality but sadly developed Alzheimer's at an early age thus depriving us all of a great plantswoman. Our sympathy goes to her husband and family.

Co. Armagh has also lost two of its great and keen gardeners in Lesley Garvin and Noel McGeown, both AGS members, and again we extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

# Crevice Plants in the Wild and in the Garden

## John Page

Members who were present at my talk on Crevice Plants will perhaps recall that image of the stunning blue flowers of a lone tuft of *Eritrichium nanum* on a bare, vertical cliff at an elevation high above Saas Fee in the western Alps. A seed had blown into a minute cleft between thin strata of the mudstone, had germinated and the plant had survived into maturity, preparing for the day when it would offer its own seeds to the wind. What are the factors that made that remarkable survival possible? Initially there had been sufficient moisture in the crack for germination to take place and the seed's own food supply to nurture it. Further sustenance, but hardly sufficient to qualify as soil, was provided by material blown into the crack by the wind, plus remnants perhaps of previous occupants of the crevice. The fissure had ensured a firm anchorage as the plant's roots fanned out to extract traces of nutrition from the film of moisture seeping past the rock surfaces. In effect, the plant was dependent on rain and snowmelt, its roots etching away at the wet rocks to extract minerals, a virtually soilless existence – hydroponics. All the chemical elements it needed to survive were there, the *macronutrients* oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and sulphur (collectively more than 99% of the dry tissue) and the *micronutrients*, chiefly chlorine, iron, boron, manganese, zinc, copper and molybdenum. The latter group, the trace elements, despite their minuscule amounts, are critically important to the healthy growth of the plant. The manganese is essential for photosynthesis and the prevention of chlorosis. Copper and zinc deficiency also lead to leaf problems. No boron, no growth of the pollen tubes (the minute threads that lead down from the stigma to the ovules), ultimately no seeds. This is why when you look on the back of a box of Miracle-Gro plant food, for example, you will read:



Manganese (soluble in water)	0.05%
Copper (soluble in water)	0.03%
Zinc (soluble in water)	0.03%
Boron (soluble in water)	0.02%

Many alpine plants, as we have all experienced, do not like extreme fluctuations of temperature. The roots can be damaged by frost, the leaves of cushions can be burnt up by excessive sun. The insulation provided by crevices can alleviate the former. The latter is often overcome by the sites which crevice plants favour. *Dionysia* species in Iran, for example, again and again are to be found in shade, under overhangs, facing north. I have found *Aubrieta deltoidea* in Crete, *Arabis purpurea* in Cyprus and *Campanula versicolor* in the Peloponnese invariably in shady gullies amongst the rocks. Most memorably, I have driven along winding tracks in north-east Turkey, reviewing a parade of *Campanula betulifolia* and tufts of *Campanula troegerae* wherever the cliffs faced north. Aspect is clearly important and you can see why this can happen. When the plant is in full foliage and flower, desiccation in these habitats is always a threat if the aspect allows the sun to bear down or the winds to batter throughout the day. It is by no means uncommon to see dead rosettes of *Saxifraga longifolia* in the Pyrenees, for example, where the water in the crevices has dried up. Out in the daylight the foliage forms a low-profile cushion. The leaves are small and their margins tough, the flowers will be numerous and relatively large. Growth is slow as the plant gradually builds up its strength. All of its parts are highly evolved to cope with stress with harsh conditions at altitude. George Smith and Duncan Lowe in the monograph 'The Genus Androsace' report that the ability of these crevice plants to photosynthesise is some three times greater than that of lowland plants. For readers who are not quite sure what photosynthesis achieves, it is the process whereby the leaves intercept the light energy from the sun, enabling the plant to produce carbohydrates and ultimately all the materials it needs.



Returning to the rock, I was struck how frequently limestone figured in my notes on species that flourished in crevices (and since they have so much of it, this may well have influenced the Czechs in their enthusiasm for crevice gardens). Conversely, I came across relatively few alpine plants that grew in sandstone crevices.

If my experience is significant, the reasons are worth thinking about. There are as many different sandstones as there are beaches and deserts, but they are nearly all mainly composed of quartz which hardly encourages plant growth. The micronutrients will still be there, but there may be questions about the effectiveness of their release. At the same time, they can be very porous, which is ideal if there is plenty of water around but unhelpful in hot conditions, i.e. the rock functions like a wick and would extract much needed

water from crevices. The significance of this is that where your soil is likely to dry out in hot, dry conditions you may have to increase the ratio of loam. When I was involved in the construction of the Forest of Dean old red sandstone crevice garden at AGS headquarters at Pershore I was struck by the relatively low volume of grit in the soil. I would guess it amounted to no more than 20%. Even so, it works very well. The crevices face the heavens, intercepting every drop of rain, and the high loam content ensures that water evaporating from below is most efficiently used. This should be less of a problem in Northern Ireland with your plentiful rainfall and you may wish to incorporate more drainage material and less humus than we do here in the hot Midlands.

Ed. After John's lecture in February many members found it so informative that they asked if it was possible to have some of it in writing - so many thanks to John who has kindly obliged.



*Campanula betulifolia*, Limestone, NE Turkey



*Arabis purpurea*, Igneous rock, Troodos Mts

# 'Tingle Effect' Plants in the Alpine Garden

**Harold McBride**

Some alpine plants have what I call the 'Tingle Effect', sometimes the 'tingle' occurs when a plant flowers in your garden for the first time, others seem to have the ability to create this feeling annually !

Three years ago I constructed a crevice garden using similar methods to those that gardeners in the Czech Republic have pioneered and constructed for many years. This allows me to grow many alpiners outdoors that previously could only be cultivated successfully in pots or pans under glass in the Alpine House, and has added considerably to my gardening interest when I see the crevice bed inhabitants thrive in more natural conditions.

Often when I look at a alpine plant in my garden it quite often conjures up memories of a mountain somewhere in the world, where perhaps I have had the good fortune to visit and observe the plant growing in its natural habitat.

Their Alpine habitat may be very different to the conditions I provide in my garden; however by using the crevice bed, raised beds and troughs it helps 'snow cover' alpiners adapt to my mild, damp, virtually snow free winters.

Cyclamen coum is a plant which is normally grown in woodland conditions but will thrive and make a spectacular show in a trough when given a free draining leaf-mould type compost.



Like most plants in my garden C. coum is grown from seed and so I selected many of the leaf forms on offer, so that the trough can provide interest over a long period even when the cyclamen is not in flower.



Several New Zealanders make excellent trough plants, Clematis x cartmanii 'Joe' likes to hang over the side of its container and like the Cyclamen if several plants are installed it makes a show stopping display in spring. Indeed I have a trough in my



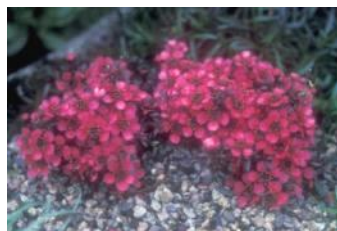
front garden which contains several plants and people in passing cars often stop and ask what is that plant with the terrific display of white flowers ? This N. Z .bred clematis is now stocked in most UK garden centres and nurseries , as is its larger flowered seedling C. x 'avalanche'. My own back-cross C. cartmanii 'Joe' x marmoraria makes a fine trough or raised bed plant this plant is much closer in appearance to C. marmoraria.

In the late 1990's Steve Newall kindly sent me some freshly collected seed of *Myosotis albosericca* and suggested it should make a fine addition to the alpine garden.

Ten years later *M. albosericca* is well established with me and each year I pass on seed to specialist seed exchanges and nurseries. Unlike *M. colensoi*, *M. macrantha*, *M. chessmanii* *M. capitata*, *M. elderi*, *M. arnoldii* and the cushion forming *M. pulvinaris*, all of which will grow and seed about in my crevice bed, *M. albosericca* is much happier growing in a pot under glass in the alpine house where it makes a fine exhibition plant and is often a prize winner at AGS shows in the NZ plant section or in the classes for 'rare and difficult' plants.



*Leptospermum scoparium* is a large shrub which I saw often and admired in N.Z. sub -alpine regions; however a dwarf form which only reaches 6cm and covers itself with deep red flowers is now on offer from several UK alpine nurseries. *L. s. 'nicholsi nanum'* provides plenty of 'tingle factor' when planted in a trough or crevice garden; it also is easily raised from cuttings.



*Ranunculus crithmifolius* provides the gardener with a real challenge to raise from seed to flowering stage but when I saw this plant growing in alpine screes of South Island, I was intrigued to see that its leaves were such a perfect match for its

surroundings, making it very difficult to find. This is another plant that the advent of the crevice garden has made outside culture possible.

Ireland's Burren in south-western Ireland, with its limestone pavements, provides me with some excellent plants suitable for trough or crevice bed culture. The diminutive fern *Asplenium ceterach* known locally as the 'rusty back' is easily grown and is also very hardy and decorative, several seedlings have appeared in my crevice garden, no doubt the spores from a twenty year old plant in a nearby raised bed found a suitable and natural habitat in which to prosper.



*Gentiana verna* is a companion plant of *A. ceterach* in the limestone pavements of the Burren; the spring gentian is certainly a 'tingle factor' plant with the pale *G. 'Burren blue'* form being much sought after.



I think all growers of alpine plants rate *Paraquilegia anemonoides* as a very choice plant and if they enjoy a climate or garden conditions which allows them to grow this plant successfully and enjoy its beauty, they should count themselves very lucky indeed! North facing vertical crevices

seems to meet with the most success, but individual plants are never long lived with me. It can be kept going however by sowing fresh seed annually. When I first began growing alpinists this mythical plant from the Himalayas was very rare in cultivation; however at least one UK alpine nursery now offers it annually in its catalogue.

From the mountains of N. America comes a bulbous genus with a reputation of being difficult to grow in UK conditions outside the Alpine House, but the one exception to the rule is *Calochortus uniflorus* which unlike other members of the family seems to enjoy plenty of moisture during the growing season. Trough or raised-bed culture seem to suit it best, this was another plant which I admired in its natural habitat in Oregon USA before introducing it to my garden.

The Tasmanian endemic *Blandfordia punicea* is indeed a rare plant in cultivation, although seed is sometimes offered by specialist seed exchanges, while seed germinates fairly readily this 'tingle effect' plant remains a challenge to keep going for the 4/5 years it takes to reach flowering.



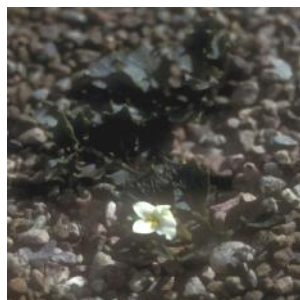
Ken Gillanders is the main contributor of *Blandfordia punicea* seed to seed exchanges indeed it was due to his generosity that I recently flowered the yellow form of 'Christmas bells' for the first time.



It was during a visit to the late Duncan Lowe's garden in the N. of England I first saw the diminutive scarlet flowered *Androsace bulleyana*, Duncan must have noticed the 'must have it' look in my eyes as he later sent me some seed of this delightful but short lived plant, which is now well established in my crevice garden and when it flowers each year I remember fondly a great plantsman, author and very talented floral artist who is sadly no longer with us.

It was in 1986 that I first obtained a copy of the newly published Joe Cartman book 'Growing NZ Alpine Plants' and it immediately inspired me to try many of the unique but challenging alpine plants from the 'mountains of the long white cloud'.

In his informative book Joe referred to *Lobelia roughii* as being one of NZ's most remarkable alpine plants and suggested it was 'just about impossible to grow in cultivation' !



I had of course seen and indeed been fascinated by this small succulent scree plant during a visit to Fog Peak in the Southern Alps, prior to the international conference ably hosted by the NZ AGS in Jan 1996.

Probably entirely due to my suitable climatic conditions I have succeeded in bringing this plant to flowering stage on several occasions and indeed one plant has reached the venerable age of 15 years growing in a deep pot in my alpine house.



Like all gardeners in the northern hemisphere I am of course greatly indebted to all the generous members of NZAGS who visit the Southern Alps each year collecting seeds, and contributing to seed exchanges which provide us with plants to enrich our gardens and challenge our abilities to grow those diverse and

fascinating alpinines many of which bring lots of the 'tingle effect' to our gardens.

## **An Appreciation of Erythroniums**

**David Lapsley**



E. 'White beauty'



E. 'Pagoda'

By all accounts this has been a good year for erythroniums. Our garden has been set alive by larger clumps than we've ever had, and single plants have shown their beauty in places where they were never planted. The first erythroniums I ever saw were growing in the wild in the USA. The meadows around Mt Rainier in Washington state were covered for acres, by what were called "avalanche lilies", botanical name *Erythronium montana*. The flowers are low





*E. hendersonii*

growing, glistening white with yellow centres, rising from a basal rosette of plain leathery leaves.

A year or two later I had a reminder of their beauty, when I encountered trout lilies in the woodlands of the eastern states of Pennsylvania and Georgia. These are a vibrant yellow, also low growing in great masses, botanical name *Erythronium americanum*.

Both species are difficult to grow in our climate, although they are listed as available

in the RHS Plant Finder,

However the species that are available compensate for their absence, *E. dens-canis* is a real beauty growing freely all over European mountain slopes. Many others derived from Californian and other US sources are now common and relatively easily grown.

I find them to be amenable to many types of areas and soils within my own garden, from shade to rocky slopes.

But I still yearn for my first love from the slopes of Mt Rainier.



*E. dens-canis*



*E. tuolumnense*



*E. 'Pink beauty'*

## AGS Ulster Group Malvern Bus Tour.

Wednesday 5th May at 6a.m. saw 41 Ulster Group members set off on another garden bus tour once again kindly and efficiently organised by Margaret Glynn and Kay Dunlop. Gardens, hotels, nurseries and comfort-stops had all been thoughtfully selected and here we have some accounts of the trip.



Just two items to add to their full accounts - it was lovely to see the Malvern AGS Show tucked away in one corner of the larger Show site. We don't often have the opportunity in Ireland to see the mainland shows and I was impressed by the range of plants- read Graham Nicholl's amusing account on the web. Some of us met Christine and Jim

McGregor at the Show and as a result we had a surprise visit to the garden at Pershore, many of us seeing it for the very first time. Ed.

### Garden Visits or Buying Spree

**Kay Dunlop**

(Call it what you like - either way it was a great trip!)

First stop Stockarton, where Dirk had to back the coach up a long long narrow country lane to reach the garden - a successful manoeuvre and well worth it. We were greeted by the wonderful scent of *Viburnum carlesii* filling the air. The same viburnum trained against the white wall of the house was a wonderful sight. A peaceful garden with the added bonus of six very black, very cuddly Labrador puppies, with a very golden mother.





Corsock Gardens followed - a superb park with species rhododendrons and a woodland walk past small temples, animal sculptures, waterfalls, and through it a burn flowing over moss covered stones - a great garden to visit.



We visited three outstanding nursery gardens - Louise Arbuthnott's Stone Cottage nursery, Derry Watkins Special Plants and Ashwood Nurseries where we were met by John Massey.

John showed us round his very lovely garden - "a place that dreams are made of".



We were pleased also to visit also to visit the garden of Michael and Anne Taylor, AGS members near Bristol. This is a smallish garden, very cleverly planned to include scree beds, woodland area, water feature and pond and rock area - an outstanding example of what can be achieved in a limited space.

I think for me that the Italianate Garden at Iford Manor created by Harold Peto will remain very clearly in my memory. For one blissful moment I wondered was I on the lake shores of Como. Every thing about the garden was a delight - the standard wisteria in front of the casita, wisteria covering the front of the Manor House, the grand Terrace and the long path to the Cloisters bordered by rare and unusual plants - the Cloister a very beautiful and peaceful place. Everything was lovely, a garden to be visited and revisited.

I almost forgot to mention the Malvern Show. It rained! There were however many good nurseries and ample opportunities to buy. Trees, shrubs, alpine, herbaceous plants, salvias - all to add to the growing nursery in the hold of the coach. Coach driver Dirk is by now used to our purchasing power and may silently curse us as he looks at more plants to be fitted in, but does not let his feelings show.



Speaking of trees, Joan and Liam felt they could not live without *Nothofagus antarctica* spotted in Ashwood nursery. I have a happy memory of Liam strolling through the foyer of our Cheltenham hotel, carrying the long slim tree towering above him - some eyebrows were raised in bewilderment. The same tree claimed sole occupancy of the coach toilet on the homeward journey!

## Ashwood Nurseries

## Margaret Johnston

For many the jewel in the crown of our trip was John Massey's private garden situated on the banks of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. We were privileged to be personally escorted by John, the owner of the internationally renowned Ashwood Nurseries. His great love of plants was evident as he guided us around his 3 acre garden in an unhurried and informative manner, generously providing cultivation tips and a masterclass in pruning techniques. The narrow boat coming along the canal added to the ambience of the tour.



Design features and plants are harmoniously blended within their natural setting. Interest is maintained throughout the informal borders, island beds, stunning pool and rock garden, unique succulent garden and woodland dell, whilst urns and figurines are imaginatively placed throughout. Despite the garden being in a frost pocket, the Lewisia wall was a riot of colour - a tribute to the evergreen Lewisia Ashwood Carousel hybrids which were bred to be tolerant of wet and winter weather.

Other Ashwood specialties include Hellebores, Cyclamen, Hepaticas, Primula auricula, Anemone pavonina, Daphnes, Salvias and Snowdrops. John's private collection also includes many rarities in immaculately maintained and beautifully designed borders. As always a garden must evolve, and John had commenced replanting of one of the beds at 7am that morning following losses due to the winter conditions. This is a garden designed for all seasons and would be worthy of a return visit. Reluctantly we had to leave, as the treasures of the nursery and tearoom called.

In short, John's garden is a masterpiece in an idyllic setting which was an inspiration to all of us.

### **Derry Watkins Special Plants**

### **Nancy Graham and Gertie Baxter**

Friday saw us being ferried up a leafy lane in a fleet of cars to visit Derry Watkins's nursery, set in delightful rolling countryside near Chippenham, Wilts.

Once again our intrepid band of "plantaholics" descended on collections of little ( and some not so little) plant gems. After a quick scout around the sloping garden, stone walls, lily pond and vegetable plot, we had worked up an appetite and were invited into Derry's farmhouse for a delicious lunch.



Derry - a vivacious lady, originally from Connecticut, USA, came to England for two years and stayed for thirty five! She set up her nursery

here thirteen years ago, having fallen in love with the gentler English climate and a plethora of enthusiastic gardeners.

Fully satisfied with feasting and buying we were returned - again in a fleet of cars - to the coach to visit another garden.



## Information and Programme

Once again information is being kept to a minimum - if you have any queries just ask any committee member and again a **Big Thank-You** to all who contribute to the running of our meetings.

There is a plant sale at the beginning and end of meetings , lectures start at 2.30p.m. and a 'cup of tea' at the end.

**Venue**    **St.Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast - 2.30 p.m.**

**Dues**   - Local current subscription rates are £9.00 single, £14.00 family, due at the A.G.M. or before the end of the current year. To help our **treasurer, please put your subscription into the envelope provided with your name, title, address. postal code, telephone number and email (if wished), also add “A.G.S.” if you are a member of the parent body, all clearly written on the outside or on a slip of paper. Give or post this to Mrs. Margaret Glynn, Hon. Treasurer.** A limit of one year's grace is given.

This subscription is for the local Group only and subscriptions to The Alpine Garden Society must be sent direct.

**A.G.S. -** Join

**Plant Sales** - keep up the support as this helps to subsidise our meetings

**Termonfeckin** - Don't forget to book on time

**Shows** - Keep on Showing - and if you have not tried before, do not be afraid to ask for advice- you will enjoy it

**Teas** - keep volunteering

**Website** - This is **your** website - it needs your contributions - we could have a regular online show for all those choice plants which flower at the wrong time for the Shows. Just send in a photograph !



## Tea Break Recipes



A visitor to the Ulster Group commented that not only could members grow alpines well but their afternoon teas were the best she had encountered so here are two recipes from Dorothy and William to add to your repertoire.

### Mincemeat Shortbread

Dorothy Brown

Ingredients      1/4 teasp. almond extract  
                         250 g butter  
                         125 g castor sugar  
                         250 g plain flour  
                         125 g ground almonds  
                         300g mincemeat

Put first five ingredients in processor. Pulse gently to bind.

Divide mixture in half - spread one half in baking tray - spread mincemeat on top - and spread other pastry half on top of mincemeat. Sprinkle flaked almonds over.

Bake in moderate oven, cool and cut.



## Scones

William McKelvey ( Congratulations on becoming a Grandpa)

Ingredients      12oz. SR Flour  
                         3oz. Butter (block)  
                         1tsp. Baking Powder  
                         3oz. Caster Sugar  
                         1 Egg  
                         Milk

Pre heat the Oven to 180°C; Cooking time approx.15 min.

Sieve the flour and baking powder into a large bowl and add the softened butter and rub in; add the caster sugar to the mix.

Crack the egg into a measuring jug, add milk to bring the liquid to 6 fl. Oz. and lightly whisk.

Add the liquid to the dry mix, ensuring the mix is not too dry or too wet.

Roll out to the mix is 20mm ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ") and cut to size.

Place on baking tray and glaze with egg or milk.

Fruit Scone: add 3oz of Sultanas or mixed fruit to the above mix. Cherry

Scones: add 3oz of Glazed Cherries.



**Programme 2010 - 11** - Bring your friends and advertise it.

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** Ulster Group A.G.M. Members Plant Sale;  
Members' pictures of Malvern Trip in 2010

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Mollie Sanderson Memorial Lecture

**Ian Young**, Aberdeen, Scotland “**Inspired To Rock**”

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Jim Almond**, Shrewsbury, Shropshire “**Out and About**”

**November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**

Termonfeckin Weekend – Dublin Group

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Fayre.

**Margaret Kennedy**, Holywood

“**Flowers of the Western Coast of S. Africa**”

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Rod Leeds**, Preston St Mary, Suffolk

“**Plants of the Olympic & Cascade Mountains**”

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Peter Maguire**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear

“**Plant Photography in a Digital Age**”

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Luncheon

**Carmel Duignan**, Dublin “**Confessions of a Plantaholic**”

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Members’ Show and Practical Demonstrations/Tips

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Dublin Group Show

**May 7<sup>th</sup>**

AGS Ulster Group Show, Greenmount

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Annual Get-together

- Details nearer the time





*Meconopsis punicea* in Branklyn Gardens